Proposed Membership and Governance Structure of GONE

October 2026

1. Secretariat

The GONE Secretariat, hosted at WRI, will hold both a strategic and administrative role. It will be responsible for developing workplans and budgets, facilitating strategic coordination among members, offering member services, and managing day-to-day coordination and operations of GONE.

2. Co-Chairs

With the establishment of an official Secretariat for GONE, there is a need for more formalized governance structures. Until now, GONE's work has been driven primarily by the Danish Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities. Going forward, we aim to broaden the ownership of the initiative by establishing two country member Co-Chairs who, in close cooperation with the broader membership and the Secretariat, will help drive GONE's work forward.

The Co-Chairs will provide strategic direction to the work of the Secretariat, while decisions on the broader strategic direction of GONE will be taken in consultation with the full membership. The Co-Chairs will also be responsible for approving the Secretariat's workplan and budget. The proposed governance structure ensures that decision-making remains with the GONE membership, while the Co-Chairs will facilitate and administer this decision-making on a day-to-day basis.

3. Membership Criteria (Governments)

A two-tiered membership structure (Core Members/Associated Members) corresponding to differing levels of ambition can provide clarity to new and existing members on how to join and lay down an aspirational 'pathway to the top'. The tiered structure is well-positioned to serve the diversity in ambition and context among countries, without being too exclusive, so that those in the beginning of their journey along a net-negative pathway as well as those that are further along with net-negative commitments in place can join GONE.

A tiered membership structure based on different levels of commitment will help strengthen GONE by expanding its membership. This will enable GONE both to maintain its clear focus and aims, while also broadening participation and engagement by additional governments.

New membership will be assessed against membership tiers by Co-Chairs and by the Secretariat, in consultation with GONE's membership.

The following two tiers are proposed:

FOR GOVERNMENTS

Core Members

National/subnational governments with a stated goal to achieve and maintain net-negative emissions or net-zero emissions by midcentury, depending on their national circumstances. These governments are taking concrete steps towards scaling CDR as an essential component of achieving their stated goals while also pursuing deep emissions reductions.

Associated Members

National/subnational governments that stand behind the importance of global net-negative emissions and are taking concrete steps towards scaling CDR while also pursuing deep emissions reductions.

4. Allies (Non-Governmental Actors)

Another group (Allies) will formalize cooperation with non-governmental actors, i.e. the private sector, NGOs and philanthropies. Allies will be regularly consulted and engaged but will not have formal decision-making ability.

FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ACTORS

Allies

Non-profit organizations, companies or philanthropies that stand behind the importance of global net- negative emissions, have knowledge and experience in the field of CDR, and are willing to contribute to the work of GONE.

5. Scientific Advisory Board

A Scientific Advisory Board could also be established to provide GONE with expert input on developments in the rapidly evolving field of net-negative emissions. The Board would serve a purely advisory and informational function and would not have formal decision-making authority within GONE's governance structure.

GONE already cooperates with several organizations that support the mission of advancing global net-negativity. Establishing a Scientific Advisory Board could provide a more formalized framework for this engagement and strengthen GONE's access to relevant scientific and technical expertise. Potential members could include organizations such as UNEP, State of CDR, and other leading research and knowledge institutions in the field.